

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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P 140745Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6080

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7337

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: POPPIES

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION I POSED TO PRIMIN SEPT 13 AS TO WHAT COULD BE SAID TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE GOT STRAW-PROCESS DECISION, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE:

"THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE THAT IN HARVESTING THE POPPIES, INCISION OF THE HEADS WILL BE AVOIDED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT THAT THEY ARE ALREADY STUDYING THE PRACTICAL, LEGAL, AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PUTTING THIS PRINCIPLE INTO EFFECT BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING HARVESTING SEASON."

2. I ASKED IF WE COULD REPLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE IF THIS STATEMENT, IN TURN, ELICITED THE QUESTION, "DOES THIS MEAN THAT TURKEY IS ADOPTING THE STRAW PROCESS?" HE REPLIED, "YES."

3. PRIMIN STRESSED HIS HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD PASS THE WORD ON THIS SUBJECT IN A FAIRLY LOW-KEY WAY. THE FONMIN, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, THEN NOTED THAT THE GOT ANNOUNCEMENT HAD NOT REFERRED TO THE STRAW PROCESS BECAUSE (A) NO FARMER WOULD KNOW  
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WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND (B) THE GOT HAD

WANTED TO AVOID AROUSING SUSPICIONS THAT SOMETHING DIFFERENT WAS GOING TO BE DONE THAT WOULD END UP TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE FARMER'S POCKET. THAT WAS WHY, GUNES EXPLAINED, THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS SUCH A CONVOLUTED ONE, AND WHY IT FOCUSED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION THAT ITS DIFFERENT PROCEDURES WOULD NOT END UP LOSING MONEY FOR THE FARMER.

4. GUNES ADDED THAT WHILE HE WAS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HE HOPED TO CONTACT COMPETENT UN AND US AUTHORITIES ON THE STRAW PROCESS AND ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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